

Hampden *Highlights*

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden • Issue 17, October 2009

THE UPCOMING NOVEMBER ELECTION

The upcoming election on November 3 has the potential to have a very large turnout due to the widely diverse, and somewhat controversial, set of referendum questions on the State ballot. While there are seven referendum questions on the State ballot, this newsletter will discuss only two of them: number 2 and number 4. These two issues have consequences for municipal budgets and funding, and it is the feeling of the Town Council that people should be aware of the ‘municipal opinion’ in regard to these issues.

Also on the ballot is one referendum question from the Town. This question seeks approval from the voters for authority to borrow up to \$2.3 million dollars for the reconstruction of Mayo Road. The brief article in regard to that question is an information-only article so that residents understand what work is being proposed if the issue passes.



Photos by Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

LOCAL REFERENDUM QUESTION

Mayo Road Reconstruction

The local bond issue requests authority for the Town of Hampden to borrow up to \$2.3 million dollars for the reconstruction of Mayo Road. This reconstruction aims to locate the road, drainage, and sidewalks within the existing legal right of way for the road. It does not replace water or sewer lines, but does rebuild the road bed, install underground drainage, and install sidewalks on the fourth ‘mile’ of the Four Mile Square area bounded by Main Road North, Western Avenue, Kennebec Road, and Mayo Road.

This project has been talked about by the community for

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COUNTDOWN TO LANDFILL CLOSURE

We are now officially in the final quarter of 2009. In less than three months, the Pine Tree Landfill will no longer accept waste deliveries and by the end of summer in 2010 – the landfill will be finally capped and covered. The closure of the landfill does not represent the end of municipal or state oversight of the facility. The owners of the landfill have a 30-year obligation following final closure for the monitoring of environmental factors such as water quality, gas migration, and air quality. The Town will continue to employ technical consultants to assist it with the review of this monitoring information and to make sure that the environmental remediation required at the site happens in as expeditious a manner as possible.

For those who have expressed concern about what the Town of Hampden will do about solid waste disposal post closure, the Town’s solid waste goes to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) in Orrington, as it has so for many years. We are contracted with that facility through 2018. There will be no impact to Hampden’s solid waste disposal from the closure of the Pine Tree Landfill.

While the landfill itself is closing for waste deliveries, the location of a gas-to-energy facility there insures that there will be a physical presence at the site after closure. The use of the gas generated by the decomposing waste to produce electricity is a positive environmental outcome from this facility. There is a possibility that some or all of the electricity created from this process can be somehow

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Referendum Question 2 The Excise Tax Debate

On November 3, 2009, voters are being asked to cast their ballots in regard to a number of referendum questions. One of those questions relates to excise tax paid on automobiles. As proposed, the new law would reduce the excise tax collected by municipalities by approximately 40 percent. In Hampden, that translates to approximately \$601,000. This proposed law would be a personal benefit for approximately 32% of vehicle owners in the state of Maine - those who regularly buy new automobiles - but the 68% who have vehicles that are five years old or older would see no benefit. Both new car owners who benefitted from the change and older car owners who do not would all be impacted by the need to find those monies elsewhere - or by the service reductions that would result from the drastic cuts necessary to accommodate the \$601,000 loss. Although Hampden is seen as an affluent community in terms of property values - our statistics for vehicle ownership mirror the State average. Of the vehicles registered in Hampden in the 2008/2009 fiscal year, 67% were more than five years old - which means that the owners of those vehicles would have seen no advantage from this legislation.

Excise tax is collected locally and used locally. The \$1.5 million dollars that is collected annually here in Hampden in Excise Tax pays for the total cost of Public Works services, including paving. A forty percent reduction in that amount will have serious consequences. At the current municipal valuation, we would have to raise the mil rate on property taxes by \$1.11 to accommodate that loss of revenue. For an average home in Hampden valued at \$200,000 - this would equal an additional \$222 on the property tax bill. Although excise tax is used to cover the cost of public works operations, its reduction would not take away our legal responsibility to repair, maintain, and plow the roads for public safety reasons. This means that other departments of the Town would have to see service reductions in order to help make up the funding loss.

There is no doubt that everyone is impacted by taxes of all types - and that there is a high level of frustration in this State with limited job possibilities, high costs of goods and services, and a seemingly endless sea of red ink from the State and Federal government. However, the unfortunate reality is that targeting the excise tax in this drastic manner will benefit only a small minority of the Maine population - and force the majority to absorb the costs through their property taxes. *continued on page 4*

Mayo Road *from page 1*

many years, and the Town Council determined this year that it would put this issue out for a referendum because of the upcoming new high school construction that will put even more stress on Mayo Road as a transportation corridor. The Council has identified safety concerns over the current configuration of the road and the lack of sidewalks for pedestrian safety. If passed, this construction would take place during the 2010 construction season. ■



Landfill *from page 1*

'dedicated' for the use of Hampden residents, and we are in the process of discussions with the landfill as to how that might be possible.

The landfill first opened in Hampden in 1974 and has had a contentious history since. Although there is a somewhat collective community 'sigh of relief' that will signal the end of this facility, it is also important to remember that when it happens, people will lose their jobs. In addition for the final seven years of its life, the facility has had a generous Host Community Benefit package that has allowed the Town to accomplish some significant community projects and to fund its capital reserves program without impacting the property tax mil rate. There has also been an abutter tax rebate program that has rebated property taxes for those living in the closest proximity to the active landfill during the operational years from 2001 forward. The facility has worked cooperatively with the Town and its technical consultants in revising the waste stream to eliminate the more odor causing elements in the final years of operation and in the negotiation of a final closure plan. The closure agreement represents the first such agreement in the State of Maine between a business, a community and the Department of Environmental Protection. The Hampden Town Council is to be commended for the work it has done in this regard. ■

Question 4 on the State Referendum Ballot TABOR II

A second referendum question on the ballot this November that is of concern to local government is referred to as TABOR II since it mirrors much of the TABOR I question that was on the referendum ballot - and defeated - in November of 2006.

This measure is a complicated one. Its purpose is to further constrain the ability of the State of Maine and local governments to adopt budgets without statewide or local referenda. The costs of such referenda are high due to the need to not only hold a formal election but also because the measure requires, in the case of a state referendum, a mailing to be done to every registered voter in Maine in advance of such a referendum. The estimated cost of such a mailing is over \$800,000. The formula used in the proposed legislation is a more volatile one than is presently in place and in the case of State government, this limit may be more generous than the existing limits found under LDI that is currently in place.

For the past four years, Maine law has had formula-based spending limits on both state and local government, and in the aggregate, State and local governments have stayed within those limits. In real dollars, the state budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 has dropped more than \$450 million dollars from the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. The State's Highway Fund budgets and General Fund budgets are even lower now than they were in 2006.

As an example locally of the efforts of elected officials to constrain spending, this year the Town of Hampden municipal budget could have required the use of \$3,100,000 in property taxes and remained under the spending limitation set in statute. Instead, the Town of Hampden municipal tax appropriation is just over \$2,860,000, which is considerably lower than what is allowed. Local elected officials try very hard to find ways to provide needed and desired services in the most cost-effective manner possible.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGER



Susan Lessard, Town Manager

TAX DUE DATE -

A reminder that tax due date to avoid interest on the first half of property taxes was October 7th!

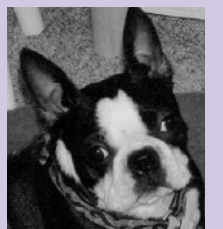
RACE FOR THE CURE - Hat's off to Town Clerk Denise Hodsdon as co-chair for this year's Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure held on

Sunday, September 20th. The event drew more than 5000 participants and resulted in donations of more than \$300,000.

HOURS OF OPERATION - Based on customer feed back in regard to the change in hours of operation for the Town Office, we will continue with the four-day workweek from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

RAIN GARDEN UPDATE - You will notice as you drive by the Town Office on Western Avenue that the rain garden has really started to prosper! From its flooded beginnings back on June 18, it has really begun to look quite beautiful and is functioning as it was designed to do. Many thanks to the Bangor Area Stormwater Group for its financial contributions to this project, to the volunteers who helped to plant it, and to Laura Wilson of Hampden for all of her help in seeing this project through from start to finish.

2010 Dog Licenses Available October 15th



Sassy says...It's that time again! Dog licenses will be available at the Town Office beginning October 15, 2009. All dogs over the age of 6 months must be licensed by January 31, 2010 in order to avoid the \$15 late fee. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination and spay or neuter certificate if applicable. ■

Hampden Highlights is published quarterly by the Town of Hampden, and its success depends upon a community-wide effort. We ask you to please forward news, notes and tips about friends, neighbors, colleagues - or yourselves - to Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly by emailing: Anne.O'Reilly@umit.maine.edu, drop off at the Town Office, or mailing to *Hampden Highlights*, Town Office, 106 Western Avenue, Hampden, ME, 04444. You can find *Hampden Highlights* on the Web at www.hampdenmaine.com. We welcome your feedback. Edited by: Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly and Susan Lessard • Layout and design by Val Williams

TABOR *from page 3*

Of great concern in regard to this ballot question is the loss of local control as to how a community manages its finances and sets its priorities. Budgets for communities reflect the values and priorities of the residents of those communities in the same way that State budgets reflect the values and priorities of its citizens. If we want to spend less, a slash and burn referendum question is the wrong way to approach it. Instead, as local governments and as a State, we need to make sure that we tailor our appetites to available funding. We cannot demand increased services without being willing to pay for them.

The Hampden Town Council is considering a resolution in regard to this referendum question. In discussions at the Finance Committee meeting on September 23, those present had serious reservations about the potential negative impacts of this question if adopted. ■

What the Heck is MS4?

By Ben Johnson, Code Enforcement Officer

No, it is not some new gang or rock band. This acronym or abbreviation stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. And yes, Hampden has one. Hampden is one of 28 municipalities in Maine permitted to operate an MS4. The permit is issued annually by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP's authority to issue these permits comes directly from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the result of the federal Clean Water Act. The MS4 consists of a series of ditches, swales, pipes, catch basins and other similar conveyances, located within the Urbanized Area (UA) of Town, which direct stormwater from roads, parking lots, and other impervious areas to waterways. Through its permit and a very detailed stormwater management plan, the Town seeks to reduce the impacts of this potentially polluted runoff on those waterways.

The most recent attempt to meet permit requirements was the adoption of the Post-Construction Stormwater Management Ordinance. The new ordinance requires individuals disturbing one acre or more of land area, while conducting construction activity, to submit a stormwater management plan for approval by the Town. Ultimately, owners of property subjected to these stormwater management plans will need to annually certify that their stormwater management systems are functioning properly.

If you have questions about the Town's stormwater management plan/program or the new post-construction ordinance, please do not hesitate to contact the Code Enforcement Office. ■

From Fire Truck to Golf Cart

By Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly



Photo by Melissa Antononi

Most people can't claim they volunteered for any one organization or department for 45 years, but 77-year old Elwyn Brewer can...well at least up until July 25. That was the birthday present Brewer gave himself, retiring from being a volunteer on the Hampden Fire Department. "I am going to miss it; I already do," says Brewer as he spies the golf clubs nearby. That is what he is doing now and quite excited about it.

Elwyn Brewer moved his family to Hampden from Aroostook County in 1962. Two years later, along with his Civil Service job and then employment with Chadwick-Baross, he began volunteering with the fire department.

"I started on the fire department as an interior firefighter. There were no safety regulations, so if you could take in a lot of smoke and survive, you were a good firefighter."

Brewer has seen a lot in his 45- year stint from being Assistant Fire Chief and working under five chiefs to learning all the new safety regulations. "I welcome the changes with better training and equipment."

For the past 20 years, Brewer was commanding at fire scenes so he hasn't been in the interior for many years. "If you're young, you like it because you like to get to where the action is, and if you are older, you like to be on the outside where your experience takes over."

Volunteering for 45 years, Brewer worked with several fire chiefs, numerous firefighters, and participated in ongoing education and training. "The fire department got so it was a home away from home, and once you are on there for a while, you can't get it out of your blood," says Brewer.

Lt. Frank Coombs reminds us back in the 1960's firefighters received \$1.00 for each fire call, so there had be more incentive than the money. Referring to Brewer, Coombs says, "He's the last of an old breed and he has earned the respect of firefighters across the state."

Brewer claims he was only able to offer all these years to firefighting because his wife was so cooperative, and she was an active part of the auxiliary. In 2000, she passed away, and Brewer could have retired then but he claims the department has been his family. Brewer claims his hips are hurting these days but welcomes riding in the golf cart now instead of the fire vehicle. ■

Excise Tax *from page 2*

The Hampden Town Council Finance Committee discussed this issue at a regular meeting on September 23rd and recommended to the full Council that a resolution be passed in opposition to this referendum question. A copy of the resolution is posted at <http://www.hampdenmaine.com>. ■

Read What Your Council Candidates Have to Say

MATTHEW ARNETT

I was elected to Town Council in 2005, re-elected to a full term in 2006, and elected Mayor in 2009. I championed the successful effort to close the Pine Tree Landfill and to reduce town expenditures while upholding quality services. I support smart economic and community development and championed the establishment of the Communications Committee. I was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the Maine Municipal Association and also serve as a Director of the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. I appreciate your continuing support.



ANDREW COLFORD

I have lived in Hampden for nine years and am a professional firefighter with the Air National Guard. I served as your town councilor from 2004-2008, ending my term as deputy mayor. I pioneered the tarring of all unpaved roads in district four, worked on securing 24/7 paramedic coverage, worked toward closing the Pine Tree Landfill, and I have always made decisions while keeping an eye on the tax rate. I chaired the Public Safety Committee where we worked on securing a pumper-tanker, which will be in operation next year, to better serve the non-hydrant areas of town. I also chaired the Appointments and Public Works Committees while serving on the Finance and Ordinance Committees. I would like the opportunity to renew my efforts on the town council to see the landfill closing through, work diligently on the pending Mayo Road reconstruction, and to continue serving all Hampden residents.

SHANNON FLAVIN COX

I have lived in Hampden for nine years and am currently completing my first term on the Town Council. I have served on the Charter & Ordinance Committee, Economic Development Committee, Communications Committee, Public Safety Committee, Comprehensive Planning Committee, Committee on Committees, and the Services Committee, which I have chaired for the past two years. I am seeking re-election to continue the work I have been focused on over the past two and a-half years. I am eager to see the implementation of the newly developed Comprehensive Plan, the building of a new high school, and the revitalization of Dorothea Dix Park. Hampden is a terrific community with dedicated and caring citizens. I would love the opportunity to continue to serve every citizen of Hampden as the town prepares for some very exciting changes.



ANDRE CUSHING

I am a Realtor and small business owner as well as State Representative-District 39. I serve as the town's deputy mayor, chair of the Planning & Development Committee and the Committee on Committees. I also oversee the Communications sub-committee, which provides the newsletter, website, and government channel, which airs many of the locally produced segments on Hampden. I am a member of Kiwanis, serve as a corporator for Phillip Strickland Home and on the Eastern Maine Community College Foundation. In the Maine Legislature, I am the ranking member on the Joint Committee on Labor. I truly enjoy living in and serving Hampden "THE community of choice in central Maine." ■

Garden Club



The beauty of Hampden's private gardens and those of Garden Club members open for public tour each summer.

Photo by Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly with assistance from Carolyn Belanger

Conservation Commission is Seeking Input and New Members

By Don Katnik

Hampden's rural character is important to its residents and one reason why many live here. The Conservation Commission was established to advise the Town Council on how best to protect, conserve, and enhance the natural resources of Hampden and to oversee the conservation of Town lands and easements. We recently inventoried the town's open spaces and natural resources as part of updating Hampden's Comprehensive Plan, which will provide the framework for ensuring that the town maintains its rural character while continuing to grow economically. Input from Hampden residents is an important part of both finalizing the Comprehensive Plan and the Conservation Commission's regular activities, which include reviewing site development plans, working to create easements that conserve natural resources, and participating on the Hampden Tree Board. The Commission has seven members who serve staggered three-year terms. If you would be interested in helping the Conservation Commission or, even better, becoming a member, we would welcome you to attend our regular meetings at 7 pm on the last Tuesday of each month in the Municipal Building Council Chambers. ■

Walkin'tober!

By Willow McVeigh

Bangor Region Public Health & Wellness, SAD #22, and Hampden Recreation are working with your community to encourage kids and adults to get out and get moving during the month of October. The program is free and the goal is to reach a minimum of 30 - 60 minutes of physical activity on at least 20 days of October.

To maintain healthy lifestyles, children and adolescents should engage in 60 minutes or more of daily physical activity and adults should perform 30 minutes or more of daily physical activity. Walkin'tober is a fun way to achieve these goals as a community.

To participate with your child, please visit www.WhatYouDoMatters.org and print out a Walkin'tober Physical Activity Calendar. Return your calendar to the Hampden Recreation Office by November 6 for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods.

For more information contact: Kerrilyn Marzullo at 207-949-2006 or Kurt Mathies at 207-862-6451. ■



4-H Winners

4H club members Michelle Rocker, Katelyn Porter, Ben Nelson, Colin Reeve, and John Rocker with the JeoPAWdy display that earned first place at the Bangor State Fair.

Photo by Denise Rocker

PLAYAWAYS:

Edythe L. Dyer Community Library won 15 Playaway titles in a July contest for libraries nationwide! We were the only library in Maine to receive the collection worth \$1111.00. In case you don't know, Playaway's are self-playing digital audio books, and so easy to use anyone can listen. This innovative digital format gives library members another way to hear books. You can choose from audio cassettes, CDs, and downloadable books for your MP3 player or iPod. Since Playaways and downloadable books are contained on a single digital file, changing cassettes or CDs is eliminated and the large format simple buttons make playing a breeze.

Half the size of a deck of cards, Playaway is the simplest way to listen to a book on the go and – with no tapes or CDs - can hold up to eighty hours of content on each unit. Using clearly marked buttons, Playaway gives listeners the ability to move back and forth within or between chapters and alter the speed of a narrator's voice. It even has an automatic bookmark feature that remembers where you left off. Additionally, Playaway has a universal headphone jack that works with almost any type of headphone or mobility accessory.

If Playaways prove to be a popular format, we will consider purchasing more titles.

For more information about Playaway at Edythe Dyer Community Library please call 862-3550. ■

NEW WELLNESS MATERIALS:

We have been assessing the library's wellness materials and have ordered many new and updated favorites with an unexpected gift of \$1000.00 from Bangor Regional Public Health and Wellness, a division of Bangor Health and Community Services Department.

Jamie Comstock, Health Promotion Program Manager, explains, "We are the Healthy Maine Partnership that serves the Bangor Region towns of Bangor, Brewer, Clifton, Eddington, Glenburn, Hampden Hermon, Holden, Newburgh, Orono, Orrington, and Veazie. As such one of our responsibilities is to provide health and wellness information to residents of these towns. This year we budgeted \$1,000.00 to give to each of the community libraries in our service area so they can purchase health and wellness related materials."

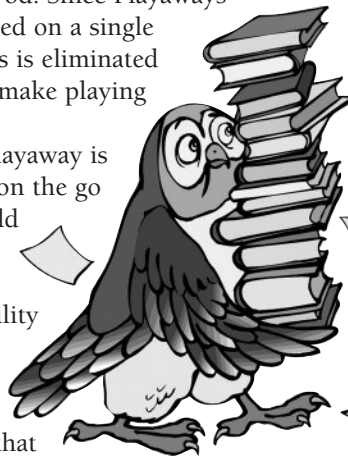
We have a new series of books for children explaining common illness; one very popular title is "The Moose with loose poops" by Charlotte Cowan. Adult materials include wellness titles for all ages, popular exercise and Yoga DVDs, parenting titles and three new magazines Vegetarian Times, Yoga Journal, and Natural Health.

This is a wonderful and timely gift. ■

PICTURING AMERICA

Recently Donna Beck, Children's Librarian, wrote a proposal and received a WE THE PEOPLE BOOK-SHELF award of seventeen hardcover books through the National Endowment for the Humanities. They are a themed set entitled "Picturing America."

As part of the award, we were asked to display the books and use at least one book in a library program. "Travels with Charley" by John Steinbeck will be our January book discussion title. We displayed all of the state quarters and asked vacationing library members to take pictures for our "Picturing America" display. These are beautiful books new editions of old favorites, so stop in and check them out. ■



HAMPDEN HISTORY ONLINE @ <http://hampden.mainmemory.net> !

A team including members from the Hampden Historical Society, the Edythe L. Dyer Community Library, and students and teachers from Reeds Brook Middle School spent many hours last year creating a website devoted to some of Hampden's history. Students scanned images provided by the Historical Society and the librarian, with great assistance from members of the Historical Society, cataloged some of those images. The cataloged images are now part of The Maine Memory Network (MMN), a project of the Maine Historical Society. MMN provides searchable access to thousands of historical items belonging to hundreds of organizations from across Maine.

Hampden's website, along with sites created by seven other communities, makes up the first cohort of the Maine Community Heritage Project (MCHP). The three-year project is supported by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services and is the first of its kind in the country, perhaps in the world. The Hampden team is proud to be one of the trailblazer communities and we hope you will explore the website. ■

A Dog Park for Hampden? Can You Help?

By Jean Lawlis

There have been several requests for the town to work with citizens to create a town dog park. A potential site has been identified. You can help by being part of a committee that can work with the town's Services Committee and take responsibility for creating a proposal, raising funds, creating rules, and providing ongoing support of a park once it has been created.

We need your help. Please share your ideas with us.

- Call Jean Lawlis at 862-4080 in the evening, or
- Email lawlistowncouncil@gmail.com, and
- Come to an exploratory meeting on October 12th at 7PM in the council chambers at the town offices.

What is a Dog Park?

(from the Americal Kennel Club's website)

A dog park is a public park, typically fenced, where people and their dogs can play together. These places offer dogs off-leash play areas where their owners can enjoy a park-like setting and the chance to socialize with other canines and their owners. Dog parks, which are sometimes managed by park users in conjunction with city or town officials, are being established all over the country and offer a wealth of benefits to dogs, dog owners and the community as a whole.

For more information visit http://www.akc.org/canine_legislation/dogpark.cfm



Photo by Denise Rocker

Groundbreaking

September saw the ground breaking ceremony for the new Hampden Academy to be constructed on a 23- acre site with an estimated completion date of January 2012.



Calling All Ghosts to Help with Halloween

By Sgt. Dan Stewart

The Hampden Public Safety Halloween Safe House is in full swing of the planning stage. Again this year, we are going to have the safe house in the Community Room at the Public Safety building. This area is set up for the younger kids with games & treats while Mom and Dad can enjoy a cup of coffee to ward off the chill.

The Haunted Forest, which was a success in its first year, will return. If the weather cooperates, we plan on having a return of the pony rides; they were a big hit last year and Coldbrook Equestrian has agreed to a return visit this year.

Organizing and hosting a two-fold event like this is very labor-intensive, and we need all the help we can get. Any local groups that would like to help "haunt" an area - please give us a call. Some local businesses donate their time to decorate and haunt the forest. If your business, group or even family would like to help out please call.

We need: ghouls and goblins, people to help with coffee and treats, people to help with the pony rides, people to set up and clean up, people to decorate, people to run sound effects and lighting, and people to have fun. This year Halloween is on a weekend, and we want to make sure the kids of all ages have a safe-fun place to go.

Anyone interested in helping can contact me, Sgt. Dan Stewart @ 862-4000 or send an email to HampdenPolice@hotmail.com. ■

Hampden Historical Society Christmas Bazaar

By Chip Mattson

The Hampden Historical Society will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at Kinsley House, 83 Main Road South in Hampden from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The group will offer Hampden residents and others an opportunity to holiday shop from a variety of home-made crafts such as fancy work, Christmas decorations, and other handmade items. Cakes, cookies, pies and other seasonal food also may be purchased.

Copies of the most recent *Historical Sketches of Hampden* will be on sale for \$35. A white elephant sale will also be stocked with Christmas specials.

There will be a raffle drawing. Prizes will include a print by local artist Tom Hennessey and various gift certificates. For ticket purchase and other information – contact Paula Newcomb at 862-3118. ■

Children's Day Celebrating 30 YEARS!

Photos by Kurt Mathies and Vivian Gresser



Children's Day

Hampden celebrated its 30th Children's Day
remembering there's 'no place like home.'



Friends of Edythe Dyer Community Library Fall Sale

By Jane Jarvi

Many of us are in the throes of preparing for winter. You know, stacking firewood, getting out the long johns, and laying in a supply of good reads. To help you in that process, a book sale sponsored by The Friends of Edythe Dyer Library will be held Saturday, November 7, 9 am – 2 pm and Bob Frank is providing a cider demonstration from 9 – noon.

Funds raised this fall will be applied to making the check-out area more efficient and library programming. The funds raised from the spring sale purchased a defibrillator for the library.

If you’ve attended sales at the library in the past, you will be pleasantly surprised at the cleaning, organizing, and enhancement of the library basement done by a group of dedicated volunteers. The number of new titles available is amazing thanks to always welcomed donations. New



donations of gently used books will be accepted up to October 20th and anytime after the sale. Please, no encyclopedias.

Other ways to support the friends is through contributions of used ink cartridges or unwanted cell phones (contribution box is by the ramp). This is a great way for individuals or businesses to recycle and support the community. There is also a portable book

sale in the kitchen where titles are rotated regularly.

Spearheaded by a seed group of volunteers, The Friends is now a thriving group, always seeking interested members. We currently have a working morning every Tuesday from 9:30-11 in the basement. The next formal meeting is October 20, at 9:30. If you have an interest, but are unable to attend, we stay connected via email (esp. helpful to those who work): just leave your name and contact information with the library staff. We all have talents and strengths: the Friends welcome new members and whatever contributions of time and ideas you may have available.

Due to space limitations, the sale is not handicapped accessible. ■

Calling all Seniors

By Kurt Mathies

The first Monday of every month is a chance for Seniors to enjoy games, trips, meals, bingo and speakers. The gathering begins at 11:30 at the Hampden Kiwanis Hall next to Irving. Then, the third Monday of each month, Seniors are encouraged to bring their brown bag lunch and be ready to enjoy cards, board games and lots of socialization. It all begins at 11 and again at the Kiwanis Hall. Coffee and tea and new friends are provided. Call Karen at 223-3937 or Emma at 862-3126 for more information.

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
106 WESTERN AVENUE
HAMPDEN, ME 04444

PERMIT NO. 201

POSTAL PATRON
HAMPDEN, ME 04444